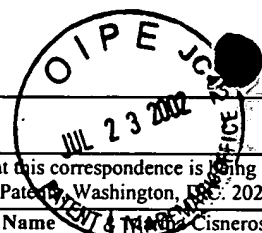


V. Douglas
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8/8/02



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| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING | | | |
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231. | | | |
| Typed or Printed Name | | WENT & MARIA Cisneros | |
| Signature | | Date | July 18, 2002 |

| | | |
|--|----------------------|--|
| AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111 Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 | Attorney Docket | GUID-003DIV2 |
| | Confirmation No. | 2546 |
| | First Named Inventor | Charles S. Taylor |
| | Application Number | 09/440,106 |
| | Filing Date | 11/15/1999 |
| | Group Art Unit | 3736 |
| | Examiner Name | Robert L. Nasser |
| | Title | Surgical Devices for Imposing a Negative Pressure to Stabilize Cardiac Tissue During Surgery |

Dear Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated February 27, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before May 27, 2002 and which has been extended by the request of a two month extension of time, filed concurrently herewith, extending the period for response until July 27, 2002. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. A clean copy of the amended claims appears below with the amended version attached on a document marked "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1 after the title, which was newly added by the Preliminary Amendment, as follows:

(Amended) This is a divisional of application Serial No. 08/870,687 filed on June 6, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,032,672, which is a divisional of application Serial No. 08/603,328 filed on February 20, 1996 and issued as United States Patent No. 5,727,569 on March 17, 1998. The priority of these applications are expressly claimed and these applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

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